

Attorney Docket: 65856-0032

S.N.P. 09/881,536



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Jack D. Patterson

Group Art Unit : 2831

Serial No. : 09/881,536

Examiner : J. Lee

Filed : June 14, 2001

For : Connectionless Data Link Assembly

Attorney Docket No. : 65856-0032

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 7, 2002, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, Claims 1-12 with traverse.

The Office Action asserts that the invention recited in Claims 1-12 is independent or distinct from the invention recited in Claims 13-16. Applicant disagrees with this assertion.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one independent claim would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining independent claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803, which states that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office. Thus, Applicants provisionally elect Group I,

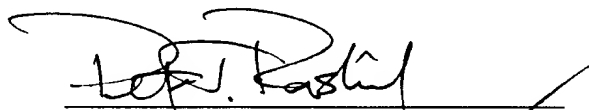
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Claims 1-12 with traverse. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited. Should Examiner Lee believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Rashid", is written over a horizontal line.

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